CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the material web is formed as woven fabric at least partly avoiding yarn formation from unspun metal fibers and such a material web is exposed to this hydrodynamic needling for finishing.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein textile fibers are mixed in the material web of metal fibers or filaments and both are together exposed to the hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding or finishing.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the material web consists of 100% metal fibers or filaments and such a material web is exposed to the hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding or finishing.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the hydrodynamic needling is carried out at a pressure >200 bar.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein metal fiber ~~nonwovens with~~ woven fabrics, knit fabrics, knitted fabrics, stitch-bonded materials, ~~stitch-bonded nonwovens, needle-punched nonwovens etc.~~ consisting of 100% metal fibers but also of combinations of metal fibers and textile fibers are combined to form composites by means of hydrodynamic needling.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the water jet stitch bonding is followed by a pressing and/or calibration process.

10 - 22. (canceled).

23. (new) A method of making a material web comprising the step of:

providing a knitted or woven fabric at least partially formed of spun yarns of metal fibers or metal filaments and thereafter

hydrodynamically needling the fabric with high-pressure water jets to finish the fabric.

24. (new) The method defined in claim 23 wherein the jets have a pressure greater than 200 bar.